

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 216524
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 HEW-04 CU-04 SCS-03 /029 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:WNHOWELL:PDW

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 216524

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, PINS, CASC, OTRA, SWEL, SY

SUBJECT: CONTACT WITH UCLA ARCHEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION

1. ARN HAS RECEIVED CALL FROM MS. ILENE SWARTZ,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASST. AT UCLA INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY.
MS SWARTZ SAID SHE AND STAFF HAVE JUST SEEN FITCHETT
ARTICLE ON CHOLERA IN SYRIA AND ARE CONCERNED RE WELFARE
OF INSTITUTE EXPEDITION WHICH ENTERED SYRIA WITHIN LAST
WEEK FOR EXCAVATIONS AT ASHARA ON EUPHRATES, NEAR DEIR
EZZOR.

2. MS. SWARTZ SAID EXPEDITION IS LED BY PROF. GIORGIO
BUCELLATI WHO HAS WORKED SITE FOR LAST SEVERAL YEARS.
ALTHOUGH SHE KNEW BUCCELLATI CONTACTED EMBASSY IN PREVIOUS
YEARS, SHE WAS NOT CERTAIN HE WOULD HAVE MADE CONTACT UPON
HIS RECENT ENTRY INTO COUNTRY AND IS CONCERNED THAT HE MAY
NOT BE FULLY AWARE OF EXTENT OF CHOLERA EPIDEMIC. OF
PARTICULAR CONCERN IS PRESENCE WITH EXPEDITION OF 18 MONTH
OLD CHILD WHO PHYSICIAN AT UCLA BELIEVES SHOULD BE
REMOVED FROM SYRIA IMMEDIATELY.

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3. PLEASE REPORT WHETHER EMBASSY HAS HAD RECENT CONTACT
WITH EXPEDITION AND DISCUSSED CHOLERA DANGER WITH THEM.
REQUEST EMBASSY MAKE FURTHER CONTACT IN ANY CASE THROUGH

MUSEUM AUTHORITIES AT DEIR AZZOR (WHERE THERE IS
TELEPHONE) TO DISCUSS CHOLERA SITUATION WITH RESPONSIBLE
MEMBER OF EXPEDITION AND CONVEY RECOMMENDATION RE INFANT.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT, SLUGGED FOR ARN, OF ANY CONTACT EMBASSY MAY HAVE ALREADY HAD WITH EXPEDITION AS WELL AS INDICATION OF MEASURES BUCCELLATI PLANS TO TAKE IN LIGHT OF CONSULTATIONS BY PHONE WITH EMBASSY. WE HAVE PROMISED TO LET INSTITUTE KNOW THROUGH SWARTZ RESULTS OF YOUR CONTACTS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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